The broad targeted plan for the Andhra Pradesh Circle is as below.The district-wise details are under finalisation.

Items	Target	Large	Small & Medium
DELs	5,30,000		
(A) Wired lines	3.55 Lakhs	1,15,000	2,40,000
(B) WLL lines	1.844 Lakhs (WLL 0.564 Lakhs& CMTS 1.28 Lakh)		

Under the Pilot Project of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) cellular telephone services are planned for 12000 lines covering 9 cities of Andhra Pradesh:- (1) Hyderabad, (2) Vijayawada, (3) Vishakhapatnam, (4) Guntur, (5) Tirupathi, (6) Kakinada, (7) Amalapuram, (8) Warrangal, (9) Rajahmundry.

In addition Indian Mobile Personal Communication System (IMPCS) Main Project tender floated covers 85 additional cities of Andhra Pradesh with 4,13,600 lines.

FDI in Telecom Sector

203. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been no FDI in telecom sector during the last eight months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken for increasing FDI in telecom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. The total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) received during the last eight months (from September, 2000 to April, 2001) is 651.3 crores, which is 3.47 times the FDI inflow in the corresponding period (from September, 99 to April, 2000 the FDI inflow was Rs. 187.46 crores).

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Government has taken a number of measures for increasing FDI in telecom sector; some of these are:—

(I) FDI up to 100% subject to certain conditions, has been permitted in respect of the following areas in telecom sector:—

(i) ISPs not providing gateways (both for satellite and submarine cables);

(ii) Infrastructure Providers providing dark fibre (IP Category I);

(iii) Electronic Mail; and

(iv) Voice Mail.

(II) FDI up to 74% has been permitted in respect of the following areas in telecom sector:—

(i) ISPs providing getaways (both for satellite and submarine cables);

(ii) End to end bandwidth; and

(iii) Radio Paging service.

(III) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act (TRAI Act) has been amended to strengthen the regulator and constitute a Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal.

(IV) Telecom Services have been separated from the policy and licensing functions, and corporatised to form Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL).

A number of fresh investment opportunities have also emerged. For example:—

1. Basic Telephone Service has been opened for free competition.
2. Tenders have been invited for 4th Cellular operator in all the telecom circles.
3. National Long Distance has been opened for private participation.
4. ISPs allowed to set-up their own Submarine cable landing stations for international gateway for Internet.
5. ISPs have been permitted to take bandwidth directly from the

foreign satellites that are co-ordinated over India, for setting up of international gateways for Internet.

6. Opening of International Long Distance pre-poned to April, 2002 from 2004.

Free telephone to employees of Gujarat Telephone Nigam

†204. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the States in which Government have implemented free telephone facility for the employees working in the telephone department;

(b) whether the said facility is in force for the employees of Gujarat Telephone Nigam also;

(c) if so, the number of employees benefited through the said facility till July, 2001;

(d) the number of employees deprived of this facility;

(e) by when they are likely to get the benefit of this scheme; and

(f) the expenditure to be incurred by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Concessional Telephone Facility to regular serving telecom employees of DoT/ BSNL/MTNL and erstwhile DTS/DTO has been extended in all the States and Union Territories in India.

(b) Yes, Sir. The facility is in force for the employees of Gujarat Telecom Circle of BSNL also.

(c) 16985 employees.

(d) and (e) 1235 employees have not been provided due to non-receipt of applications and areas being Technically Non-Feasible. They will be provided on receipt of application and areas becoming technically feasible.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.